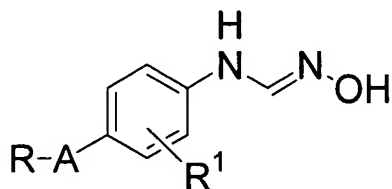


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

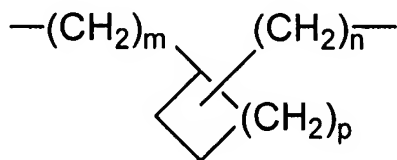
**1. (currently amended):** An N-hydroxyformamidine ~~derivative~~ compound of the following formula or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(wherein

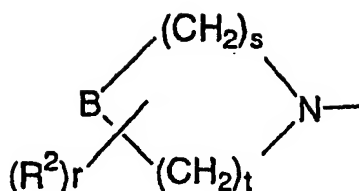
R<sup>1</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group, a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy group or a halogen atom,

A represents a C<sub>1-10</sub> alkylene group or a group of the following formula:



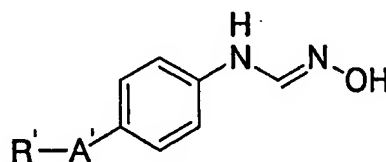
(wherein m, n and p each represent an integer of 0 to 4), and

R represents an N,N-di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a dioxanyl group, a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl-substituted dioxanyl group, a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy-C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy group or a group of the following formula:



(wherein s and t each represent an integer of 1 to 4, B represents a methylene group, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a nitrogen atom, a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl-substituted nitrogen atom, a phenyl-substituted nitrogen atom or a benzyl-substituted nitrogen atom, R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl group, and r represents an integer of 0 to 2)).

2. **(currently amended):** An N-hydroxyformamidine ~~derivative~~compound of the following formula or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(wherein A' represents a C<sub>1-10</sub> alkylene group and R' represents an N,N-di-C<sub>1-6</sub> alkylamino group, a pyrrolidinyl group, a dioxanyl group, a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkyl-substituted dioxanyl group or a C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy-C<sub>1-4</sub> alkoxy group).

3. **(currently amended):** A pharmaceutical preparation, which comprises the N-hydroxyformamidine ~~derivative~~compound according to claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient.

4. **(canceled).**

5. (currently amended): A method of treatment ~~The pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 3, which is a therapeutic agent for kidney diseases, cerebrovascular diseases or cardiovascular diseases, said method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1 or 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~